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THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

RANDOM NOTES.

THOSE who desire to ornament and decorate the carved wooden brackets and overmantel, so much used these days, will find the following directions of service:

Cut out your bracket or mantel in well seasoned deal, with rather a coarse grain. This can be done with a fret saw. The horse-shoe arch, which is so effective, can be introduced in many ways into such a design. Mix some whiting, gold size and glue in a white jam pot placed in a saucepan of boiling water. When this mixture is thoroughly amalgamated brush it over the wood, and when cold rub down with fine glass paper and put on another coat. By this means you get a fine surface, which takes water-color perfectly, as the mixture penetrates the coarse grain of the wood. Transfer the design by means of carbonized or colored paper; the kind made in red is best, as, if there is an accident, and a false line is made, it is not so apparent as in black. Mix the colors carefully so as to get an even tint, and for the bright blues use Antwerp blue and flake white mixed, not cobalt. When the painting is done and quite dry, varnish with the best white spirit varnish.

For a mantel, an Indian scarf or phool kari makes a charming drapery, and is a great saving in labor over the heavy plush embroidered ones, and a great gain in an artistic sense. Place it simply along the mantel shelf and catch it up high in the center or on one side with a few glass or silver spangles.

A sachet for stockings is made of India silk, lined with white silk or satin, and consists of a straight piece open the full length, trimmed with lace and drawn in at each end like a cracker, with ribbon. Bands of ribbon are fastened on at intervals and tied in bows; those at the ends are stitched, as they are not intended to be untied.

A new form of chair-back is a narrow strip gathered down the center, each end edged with plush.

To restore the polish to tortoise-shell, rub well with a mixture of rotten stone and sweet oil and polish well with wash leather and plate powder.

A crawling rug should be from 1½ to 2½ yards square, made of soft white, red or brown blankets. Some are made of red twill, lined with stiffening with the word "Baby" in the center in large letters, surrounded by animals of various kinds and sizes, which can be bought ready cut out, in kid, astrakan or anything like the texture of their skin.

Pretty, quaint friezes for stair-cases and walls may be painted on the rough brown paper specially adapted for the purpose. An old witch riding on the proverbial broom, with a moonlight sky; a fairy on a rainbow; Puck on his mushrooms; owls on a crescent moon, in fact, any design roughly dashed on will give wonderfully good effects.

A clever device for a towel rack consists of an ordinary bar, about a yard long, suspended by picture cord and tassel or brass chain to the wall. To this bar are hung three large rings, six inches in diameter, held in place by a screw, the towel being hung through these rings.

Another device for a rack is to suspend three or four of these same wooden rings by ribbons of different lengths. Ropes, with fringed out ends, would answer admirably for the same purpose.

A pair of fishing rods fastened to the wall, with an open fish basket and net suspended mid-way makes a pretty decoration for the "boys' room."

An odd piece of wall decoration is what appears to be an ordinary copper ladle hung up to the wall; close inspection reveals a tiny clock in the bottom of the ladle.

A curious lamp may be made of any of the large, hollow sea-shells by filling with oil and a wick. It burns slowly, and does not give a very brilliant light, but as a curiosity it serves its purpose.

Another odd lamp is a huge buffalo horn, filled with oil, the wick and burner protruding at the top, the whole being held upright by a Berlin iron serpentine frame, coiled around from the top to the bottom of the horn, and shaped into a plaque, which hangs from the wall.

One of the most satisfactory of wax-finishes for wood is made by boiling a quarter of a pound of white wax with one ounce of pearlsh and one quart of water. It should be stirred while

boiling, and to be continued until cold. Apply with a paint brush, and afterward rub until dry with velvet or plush.

A Louis XV model rejuvenated and a trifle modernized is a very large platter with a swan at one end. On this coffee cups are served, with a cream jug and sugar bowl. The huge swan, with its outstretched wings and curved neck, is in reality a coffee pot, which the hostess can swing off and on the platter to serve the fragrant beverage, lifting each time the delicate throat of the bird.

A Russian lucheon is one of the latest fads. After the usual consommé, bird, salad and ice are served, comes boiling hot coffee in little Russian jugs, with a spoon. A jug is what the unregenerate in America call a pitcher. There is a great variety in the dainty little spoons which are used. Many ladies who have traveled "foreign countries for to see," have brought home with them spoons bought in each country they have visited, each one engraved with the name of the town and date.

An imitation bankbook and checks make a very pretty menu and name cards. The menu is cut the size and shape of an ordinary bank book, with leaves upon which is written the bill of fare. The cover is leather color and bears in large black letters "The Bank of the Bon Vivant;" to make the illusion perfect, ends of voucher project from the top and bottom as though the account had just been balanced. The name cards are imitation checks drawn to the order of the guest.

Very dark blue paper and envelopes are quite the latest fad. The large square sheets of paper are stamped with a white four leaf clover, and are really much prettier than the ordinary novelty in stationery.

English walnuts, with a quarter section cut and hung with tiny brass hinges, make unique receptacles for any small article. In the shops they are found filled with very small ivory checker men, to be used on the six-inch square board which makes the set.

Deep bandeau fringe makes handsome and sufficient trimming for a tall waste paper basket.

Japanese straw ropes, knots and discs make novel and pretty decorations for summer cottages. They can be arranged with the bright colored Japanese fans, or "occur" as Oscar Wilde says, in groups by themselves.

BEAD MAKING.

HOW are beads made? Ever since the fourteenth century, the manufacture of beads has been chiefly carried on by the Venetians; and the glass manufacturers of Murano still retain in large measure their former monopoly. Birmingham is the chief seat of the manufacture in England. Beads are made as follows: The melted glass, colored or uncolored, is taken from the pot by two workmen, who slightly expand the gathering of glass attached to their tubes, and join the two bulbs, while still soft and highly heated, into one. This done, they walk rapidly away from each other in opposite directions, in a long shed, and draw the glass, which retains the tubular character given to it by the blowing, into rods of great length, and extremely small diameter. On cooling, which takes place very rapidly, the long rods are broken up into short lengths of about a foot, and these shorter rods, after being annealed, are chopped into pieces according to the size of the beads. The roughly cut beads are next put in an iron drum containing a mixture of plaster and charcoal dust. The drum is placed in or over a furnace, and a rotary movement given to it. By this operation the short bits of glass tubing, which are softened by the heat, become rounded. The plaster and charcoal prevent the beads sticking together while soft.

THE Associated Artists—the ladies who turn out such splendid work in embroidery on 23d street—have just finished a delicate piece of workmanship in the shape of a portière of plush applied to a cloth of gold. The design comprises six dolphins worked in different colors, light pink and green, red and pint, and one or two copper shades, the whole giving an impression of the highest artistic excellence in embroidery. The design was drawn by Miss Ella Ward, a young lady who possesses considerable talent in this direction and who is now studying abroad. The portière is valued at \$400. Cornelius Vanderbilt, a few years ago, gave \$2,000 for a piece of tapestry done by the young artists of this association, who are producing work equal to that done in Europe.